What is claimed is:

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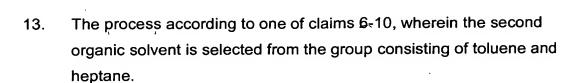
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- 1. A crystalline venlafaxine base in the form of white crystals, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of at least about 97%.
- 2. A crystalline venlafaxine base in the form of white crystals, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of at least about 98%.
- 3. A crystalline venlafaxine base in the form of white crystals, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of at least about 99%.
- 4. A crystalline venlafaxine base in the form of white crystals, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of at least about 99.3%
- 10 5. A crystalline venlafaxine base in the form of white crystals, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of at least about 99.5%.
 - 6. A process for preparing a crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 97% comprising the steps of: 1) preparing a mixture of N,N-didesmethyl venlafaxine in a first organic solvent; 2) adding a basic solution selected from the group to the mixture to adjust to a basic pH; and 3) extracting the venlafaxine base with a second organic solvent.
 - 7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the purity is at least about 98%.
- 8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the purity is at least about 99%.
 - 9. The process according to claim §, wherein the purity is at least about 99.3%.
 - 10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the purity is at least about 99.5%.
- 25 11. The process according to one of claims 6-10, where the basic solution is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.
 - 12. The process according to one of claims 6-10, wherein the first organic solvent is formic acid and formaldehyde.

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- 14. The process according to one of claims 6-10, further comprises drying the second organic solvent to dryness.
- 15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the drying is carried out by heating or under vacuum.
- 16. The process according to one of claims 6-10, further comprising the step of 4) crystallizing venlafaxine base from a solvent selected from the group consisting of hexane, pentane and petroleum-ether.
- 17. A crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 97% produced according to one of claims 6-₹0.
- 18. A crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 98% produced according to one of claims 6-10.
- 15 19. A crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 99% produced according to one of claims 6,10.
 - 20. A crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 99.3% produced according to one of claims 6,10.
- 21. A crystalline venlafaxine base having a purity of at least about 99.5% produced according to one of claims 6-10.
 - 22. A process for preparing venlafaxine hydrochloride Form I, comprising the steps of:
 - 1) preparing a mixture of venlafaxine in isopropanol; and
 - 2) introducing hydrochloric acid until a pH is in the range of pH about 5 to about 8.
 - 23. The process according to claim 22, wherein the pH is between pH about 6 to about 7.5.
 - 24. The process according to claim 22, wherein the pH is about 7.

- 25. The process according to claim 22, wherein the hydrochloric acid is a gaseous hydrochloric acid.
- 26. The process according to claim 22, wherein the venlafaxine is a venlafaxine base.
- 5 27. The process according to claim 22, wherein the mixture is a homogeneous solution of venlafaxine.